

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ET, US

SUBJECT: LANDING/PARKING/NAVIGATION FEES IN ETHIOPIA

REFS: (A) ADDIS ABABA 8704

(B) ADDIS ABABA 7187

(C) STATE 237352

1. WE RECOGNIZE EMBASSY'S CONCERN EXPRESSED PARA 1, REF B, ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY FORMULA FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF FEES ACCRUED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1974, AND WE CONCUR IN THE PROPOSAL TO ADD ANOTHER PARAGRAPH TO THE DRAFT NOTE TO SIMPLIFY THE COMPUTATION OF THESE FEES.

2. AS WE INDICATED IN REF C, PARA 3, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE FORMULAS FOR THE LANDING/PARKING FEES AND THE NAVIGATION FEES SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH EACH OTHER IN THE METHOD CHOSEN TO REFLECT THE EXEMPTION
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OF CHARGES ON MAAG FLIGHTS. ACCORDINGLY, AND SINCE THE

LANDING/PARKING FEES REDUCTION IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY AN EXEMPTION ON FLIGHTS USING ADDIS, WE WOULD APPLY THE SAME EXEMPTION TO NAVIGATION FEES RATHER THAN HALFING THE TOTAL NAVIGATION CHARGES FOR FLIGHTS INTO BOTH FIELDS. THIS WOULD REQUIRE MODIFICATION OF NEW PARA B PROPOSED PARA 2, REF B, SO THAT IT READS AS FOLLOWS:

"B. THE USG AGREES THAT THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (A) WILL BE ADMINISTRATIVELY IMPLEMENTED FOR CHANGES FALLING DUE DURING THE PERIOD UP TO JUNE 30, 1974,

ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CAA APPROVED FORMULATIONS:

(1) THE USG WOULD BE ASSESSED SERVICE CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH LANDING AND PARKING BY ALL UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT LANDING AT YOHANNES IV (ASMARA) AT RATES NO LESS FAVORABLE THAN THOSE PAID BY OTHER STATE AIRCRAFT USING THAT FIELD; (2) THE USG WOULD ALSO BE ASSESSED SERVICE CHARGES TO COMPENSATE THE IEG FOR ACTUAL BURDENS PLACED ON ITS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITIES BY ALL UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT LANDING AT YOHANNES IV (ASMARA), WHICH CHARGES WOULD IN NO CASE BE GREATER THAN THOSE PAID BY OTHER STATE AIRCRAFT; AND, (3) ACCORDINGLY, NONE OF THE ABOVE CHARGES WOULD BE ASSESSED ON FLIGHTS OF UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT LANDING AT BOLE (ADDIS ABABA, AND (4) NOTHING IN THIS AGREEMENT WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS ALTERING THE TAX RELIEF ACCORDED BY THE IEG IN THE MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT OF 1953 TO EXPENDITURES IN ETHIOPIA BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE USG."

3. WE TRUST THAT THIS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CAA ADMINISTRATOR SINCE IT SHOULD EFFECT THE SAME RESULT AND, AT THE SAME TIME, BE AS EASILY IMPLEMENTED AS THE LANDING/PARKING FORMULA. PLEASE ADVISE, HOWEVER, IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES SUBSTANTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS NOT APPARENT HERE. KISSINGER

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